MILITARY

# Lawsuit challenges ban on gays

## Lesbian takes her discharge to court

Associated Press

CAMP MURRAY, Wash. — A National Guard colonel who won a Bronze Star in Vietnam spent her last day in uniform Thursday filing a lawsuit to overturn the Pentagon's decision to discharge her because she is a lesbian.

Col. Margarethe "Greta" Cammermeyer, 50, served 27 years in the military, rising to become chief nurse of the Washington National Guard.

Cammermeyer, her voice breaking momentarily, told reporters she was proud to have worn her uniform and would do everything in her power to overturn the military's ban on homosexuals.

"The hard thing has been dealing with the loss, dealing with taking off the uniform for the last time today. And knowing that there's a part of me that says all of this was for nothing because I feel like I've not been able to do what I would have liked to have done," she said.

Her attorneys said they were filing suit Thursday in U.S. District Court in Seattle to overturn the Defense Department ban and have Cammermeyer reinstated.

The suit argues that Cammermeyer's constitutional rights to equal protection, freedom of speech, due process and right to privacy were violated by the military's action.

"It defies reason to think that contributions from officers such as Col. Cammermeyer and the thousands of other gay and lesbian soldiers somehow interferes with the military mission," said Amy Stephson of the Northwest Women's Law Center, which is representing Cammermeyer, along with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the National Lawyer's Guild.

Cammermeyer, who won her Bronze Star for work in a Vietnam field hospital, is one of the highest-ranking soldiers ever removed from the service because of homosexuality.

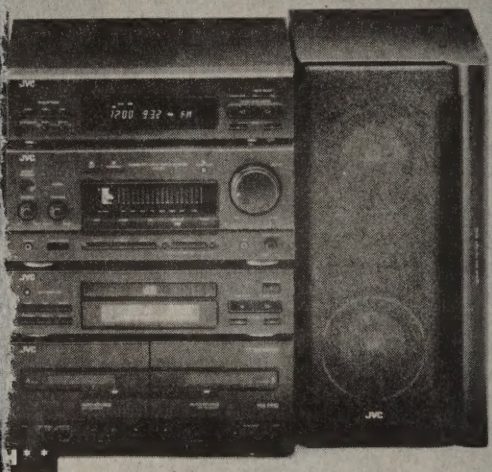
Washington Guard officials have praised her professionalism and integrity, but said they had no choice but to follow Pentagon orders to dismiss her.

# Navy trainers

# NGS STOREWIDE

# ALE

## ICORDER PURCHASE

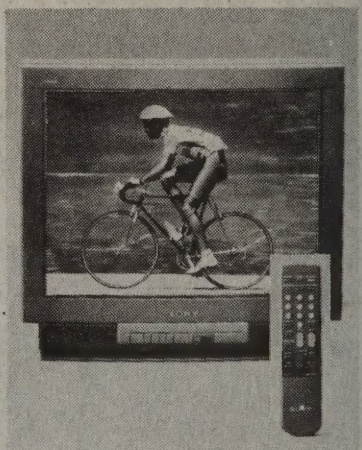


**FF ENTIRE STOCK**

**EMS.** JVC,® assette deck, tire stock, reg. 79.99-979.99 9.99 _ **779.99**

**PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT!**
Ask about our Electronics Protection Plan for your electronics purchase.

**LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT**
**Monthly payment shown is available with our flexible open-end credit plan subject to approval and local taxes.



**TH**

**PAY $45 A MONTH**

**E STOCK**
**VCRS.** Skip mer, on screen reg. 349.99-**279.99-429.99** 349.99 _ **279.99**

**$60-$130 OFF ENTIRE STOCK**
**25"-27" STEREO TV'S.** RCA,® Sony, Toshiba.® Surround sound, on-screen display. Entire stock, reg. 549.99-799.99 _____ **Sale 489.99-669.99**
Shown, Sony #2727, reg. 729.99 **599.99**

# IAY D&F

**ERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE**